

Attorney Docket No. 25636-701

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor: LI Zhu et al.

Application No.: 09/603,663

Filed: June 23, 2000

For: High Throughput Generation and Screening of
Fully Human Antibody Repertoire in Yeast

Group Art Unit: 1627

Examiner: Prasthofer, T. W.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Applicants submit this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 in response to the Examiner's Final Office Action mailed October 10, 2001 and to Applicants' telephone interview conducted with Examiner T. Prasthofer, Ph.D. on December 7, 2001. Reconsideration of the above referenced application is respectfully requested in view of the following amendments and remarks.

Please amend the application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please cancel claim 39.

Please amend the following claims:

(Amended) A method for selecting tester proteins capable of binding to a target peptide or protein and improving their binding affinity, comprising:

(a) causing mating between a first and a second population of haploid yeast cells of opposite mating types, wherein

the first population of haploid yeast cells comprises
a library of tester expression vectors for a library of tester fusion proteins having a diversity of at least 1×10^7 , each tester expression vector comprising
a first transcription sequence encoding either the activation domain or the